



Shortleaf pine – bluestem ecosystem restoration project Ouachita National Forest 2010 Accomplishments

The shortleaf pine – bluestem ecosystem restoration project began in 1991. The purpose is to restore ecosystem function to this community in the Ouachita Mountains of Arkansas and Oklahoma. Management actions include prescribed burning, timber harvest, both thinning and regeneration, and midstory reduction. Management actions were coordinated with a massive research effort involving the Forest Service Southern Research Station and numerous colleges and universities. This allows the Ouachita National Forest to adapt their management based on sound science. Total project area is almost 340,000 acres, with 50,000 acres already in a restored condition. In 2010, 25,000 acres were prescribe burned, 5,000 acres had basal areas reduced through thinning, and 5,000 acres had midstory removal. It takes multiple treatments to reach restored condition. Some of the research focused on monarch migration and nectar resources. Areas that are undergoing restoration activities support increased abundances of nectar resources and migrating monarch compared to untreated controls. Link to paper below

http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/ja/ja_rudolph018.pdf



Figure 2. Male Diana's and great-spangled fritillaries on butterfly weed, Ouachita National Forest



Figure 1. Restored shortleaf pine – bluestem, Ouachita National Forest

Year Project Initiated: 1991

Project completion: Ongoing

Report number: 1 of 1

Expenditures (through 10/2010):

FY10 funding

Partners/Contractors/Coop:).

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